

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## President Obama: U.S. Committed to Remain Top Choice for Foreign Investors

By MacKenzie C. Babb | Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama says the United States is committed to remaining “the most attractive place for businesses to locate, invest, grow and create jobs” as a new study finds that foreign direct investment in the United States jumped 49 percent from 2009 to 2010.

“In a global economy, the United States faces increasing competition for the jobs and industries of the future. Taking steps to ensure that we remain the destination of choice for investors around the world will help us win that competition and bring prosperity to our people,” President Obama said June 20 in a statement on the U.S. commitment to its open investment policy.

He said the United States consistently receives more foreign direct investment than any other country, investments that “create well-paid jobs, contribute to economic growth, boost productivity and support American communities.”

Obama’s message came as his Council of Economic Advisers released its study on the role of foreign direct investment in the U.S. economy. Council chairman Austan Goolsbee said at a briefing on the report June 20 that the impact of foreign direct investment “has been one of substantial job creation, substantial pay at those jobs and enhanced U.S. competitiveness.”

He said foreign firms employ about 5.7 million American workers, or roughly 5 percent of the private workforce. Average pay for these jobs is more than \$70,000, or at least 30 percent more than the U.S. average. Goolsbee said these investments create goods and services that account for 18 percent of U.S. exports, contributing to the Obama administration’s goal of doubling exports by the end of 2014.

Obama said foreign firms invest heavily in innovation, spending more than \$40 billion on research and development in the United States each year.

“By voting with their balance sheets, businesses from abroad have clearly stated that the United States is one of the best places in the world to invest,” Obama said. “This is because we have a strong and open economy, the world’s most productive workforce, a unique culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable colleges and universities, and a business environment marked by transparency, protection of intellectual property and the rule of law.”

Obama said inbound investment has long been an

important component of the United States’ economy, and reaffirmed the country’s enduring commitment to encourage and support business investment from sources both at home and abroad.

## World Refugee Day

Press Statement

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Secretary of State

Washington, DC

For immediate release and posting

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release June 20, 2011

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

On this World Refugee Day, we pause to reflect on how far we have come over the last 60 years since the world's first convention on refugees, and recommit ourselves to saving more refugees and survivors of conflict and persecution. Around the world, there are still over 15 million refugees who have been uprooted from their homes and forced to live in difficult and in many cases unacceptable conditions. As events in Syria, Libya, and Cote d'Ivoire evolve, we are reminded that refugee protection presents new and ongoing challenges that we must continually strive to meet.

The United States has a history of upholding human rights and humanitarian principles. For decades we have led the world in overseas support for humanitarian protection and assistance, and we have provided asylum and refugee resettlement for millions. In doing so, we show through example our dedication to basic human decency, to our responsibilities under international law, and - along with the rest of the international community - to ensuring refuge when innocent lives hang in the balance. We do this because our country’s values must be a critical component of our foreign policy.

On this World Refugee Day, the United States and the Obama Administration reaffirms these core values as we work to provide a safe haven to the world's most vulnerable citizens - refugees.

## Messenger Spacecraft Sends New Data from Mercury

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer

Washington — The first spacecraft to ever orbit the planet Mercury, Messenger, is sending Earth-bound scientists images providing surface details they’ve never seen before.

Launched from Florida’s Kennedy Space Center in 2004,

Messenger traveled a long, circuitous route to enter orbit around the planet closest to the sun just three months ago. The craft went immediately to work gathering data about the planet, last observed by a U.S. spacecraft as it flew by in 1974. Messenger is now sending images of greater clarity and higher resolution than ever seen before.

One feature of the surface intriguing scientists is a pattern of bright deposits on the floors of some craters. Messenger's sophisticated imaging system shows these features to be clusters of irregular pits varying in size from several meters to several kilometers, with diffuse halos of some reflective substance.

"The etched appearance of these landforms is unlike anything we've seen before on Mercury or the moon," said Brett Denevi, a member of the imaging team. "We are still debating their origin, but they appear to have a relatively young age and may suggest a more abundant than expected volatile component in Mercury's crust."

Denevi is a staff scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, the institution that built and operates Messenger in collaboration with NASA. The spacecraft's name is derived from "MErcury Surface, Space, ENvironment, GEochemistry and Ranging."

Messenger is flying an elliptical orbit around Mercury, with a low point about 125 kilometers above the surface and a high point at 9,300 kilometers. Even from those heights, the spacecraft's instruments gather information identifying minerals and elements on the surface. This information helps provide insight into Mercury's geologic history and its original building blocks at the creation of the solar system.

"We are assembling a global overview of the nature and workings of Mercury for the first time," said Sean Solomon, a member of the Messenger team from the Carnegie Institution of Washington. "Many of our earlier ideas are being cast aside as new observations lead to new insights."

Having been in orbit since March, Messenger has completed its first Mercury-year of 88 Earth days — the time Mercury takes to orbit the sun. The primary science phase of Messenger's mission will last another three Mercury years.

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